

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN CSCE, ETRD, PL, US

SUBJECT: US-POLISH RELATIONS: TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND CONSUL-
TATIONS ON CSCE

1. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SPASOWSKI ASKED ME TO LUNCH DECEMBER
10 FOR A FINAL DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BEFORE MY
DEPARTURE ON LEAVE. HE HAD TWO PRINCIPAL POINTS TO MAKE.

2. THE FIRST WAS ON TRADE. HE SAID THAT, IN HIS "PERSONAL"
OPINION, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND PRECLUDED ATTAINMENT
OF THE 1980 GOAL OF TWO BILLION DOLLARS IN TRADE BETWEEN US.
I SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIGURE SET FOR US BY THE US PRESIDENT
AND THE POLISH FIRST SECRETARY AND I CONTINUED TO REGARD IT
AS A VALID GOAL. HE REPLIED THAT HE, TOO, REGARDED IT, AND
WOULD CONTINUE TO REGARD IT, AS A VALID GOAL, BUT REPEATED, ON
A "PERSONAL" BASIS, THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW IT COULD BE
REALIZED, IN VIEW OF THE NECESSITY WITH WHICH POLAND WAS NOW
CONFRONTED OF RESTRICTING ITS INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND ITS
IMPORTS. MOREOVER, HE SAID, THE GOLF-CART CASE SHOWED HOW
DIFFICULT IT WAS, AND PRESUMABLY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE, FOR
POLAND TO DEVELOP VALID MARKETS IN THE US FOR MANU-
FACTURED GOODS. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, HE SAID, TO CONTINUE
TO RUN SO GROSSLY IMBALANCED A TRADE ACCOUNT AS WE NOW
HAD. POLAND WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO BUY GRAIN FROM
THE US, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO CUT BACK ON OTHER TYPES OF
PURCHASES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, HE DID NOT SEE, ON A
"PERSONAL" BASIS, HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE
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THE GENERAL MOTORS DEAL ANY TIME SOON. "MAYBE A YEAR

FROM NOW," HE SAID DOUBTFULLY, "BUT CERTAINLY NOT EARLIER; WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE".

3. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH OR APRIL. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, AND DEEPLY REGRETTED TO HEAR, THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT. HE ASKED WITH WHOM HE COULD TALK IF HE CAME AND WHAT THE AGENDA WOULD BE. HE ASKED ME TO SEE IF I COULD GET ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS, WHICH I COULD GIVE HIM UPON MY RETURN TO WARSAW.

4. HE SAID THE POLES WERE NOW THINKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR TRAVEL NEXT YEAR BY POLISH OFFICIALS TO THE US. HE SAID THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE THE EXCHANGES OF PARLIAMENTARIANS. INSTEAD OF SENDING LARGE DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, THEY WERE THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF SENDING INDIVIDUAL DEPUTIES. A "PENDING VISIT", HE SAID, WAS THAT OF MINISTER OF MINING KULPINSKI. MINISTER OF HEALTH MARIAN SLIWINSKI WAS ALSO THINKING OF GOING, AS WAS MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE JERZY OLSZEWSKI. ADDITIONALLY, VICE PREMIER TADEUSZ PYKA HAD BEEN INVITED TO COME.

5. I SAID THAT, OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO COMMENT IN ANY OFFICIAL FASHION ON ANY OF THIS AT THIS POINT. LIKE HIM, I SAID, I COULD ONLY TALK "PERSONALLY."

6. WITH REGARD TO THE PROSPECTS FOR US-POLISH TRADE, I HAD NEVER REGARDED THE TWO-BILLION-DOLLAR FIGURE AS SOME KIND OF FETISH. IT WAS PRECISELY WHAT IT HAD BEEN SAID TO BE: A GOAL. I FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT, IF OUR TRADE WERE TO BE PLACED ON A VALID LONG-TERM BASIS, IT MUST RAPIDLY BEGIN TO ASSUME MORE EQUAL PROPORTIONS IN EACH DIRECTION. THAT WAS WHY I WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT VICE MINISTER DLUGOSZ WOULD BE LEADING A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO TALK ABOUT COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. IN GENERAL, I BELIEVED WE SHOULD DO WHATEVER WE COULD TO MAKE IT MORE POSSIBLE FOR POLAND TO SEND

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US EXPORTS, AND PARTICULARLY OF MANUFACTURED GOODS.

7. I HAD LONG BEEN URGING HIM AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE POLISH OFFICIALS TO CONTRACT WITH AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN RESEARCH ENTERPRISE FOR AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING MARKETS IN THE US FOR POLISH PRODUCTS. INSTEAD, THE POLES CONTINUED TO BEHAVE LIKE AMATEURS IN THIS FIELD. SPASOWSKI INTERRUPTED TO SAY

THAT SUCH A STUDY WOULD BE VERY EXPENSIVE AND WOULD PROBABLY SIMPLY TELL THE POLES NO MORE THAN THEY ALREADY KNOW. I SAID PERHAPS THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. NOW, HOWEVER, THEY KEPT SENDING OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS FTO'S WHO NATURALLY WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF SELLING THE PRODUCTS HANDLED BY THAT FTO. HERE WAS POLAND, CALLING ITSELF A PLANNED ECONOMY, BUT NEGLECTING WHAT SEEMED TO ME TO BE THE MOST ELEMENTARY TOOL OF PLANNING. (AT THIS POINT, SPASOWSKI ASKED ME WHETHER, AFTER WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING IN POLAND IN RECENT MONTHS, I COULD MAINTAIN MY BELIEF THAT THIS WAS REALLY A PLANNED ECONOMY. "IT IS PLANNING OF A PARTICULARLY POLISH KIND," HE SAID WITH A RUEFUL SMILE.)

8. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT, IF AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI RECOMMENDED SUCH A STUDY, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING. HE WOULD THEREFORE SEND A CABLE TO TRAMPCZYNSKI AND ASK HIM FOR HIS OPINION OF THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH, HE SAID, "YOU HAVE BEEN HAMMERING AWAY AT FOR SO LONG."

9. I THEN SAID THAT I HAD NO IDEA WITH WHOM SPASOWSKI MIGHT TALK IN MARCH OR APRIL. I HOPED TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM SOMETHING WHEN I RETURNED. "PERSONALLY", I SAID THAT I HOPED HE COULD COME SOME TIME THIS SPRING AND THAT, WHEN HE CAME, WE COULD HAVE THE CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE ABOUT WHICH HE HAD SPOKEN EARLIER. IN ANY CASE, I SAID, IF HE CAME, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT CSCE FINAL ACT FULFILLMENT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED, SINCE WE ARE SO RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE DATE FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. (WE WILL SEND AN EXTENSIVE TREATMENT OF THIS SUBJECT IN A TELEGRAM IN A CONFIDENTIAL

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COUPLE OF DAYS.)

10. SPASOWSKI CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT I COULD GIVE HIM ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS WHEN I RETURNED TO WARSAW FOLLOWING MY LEAVE.

11. I NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO WARSAW RUMOR, VICE MINISTER STANISLAW TREPCZYNSKI WAS NOW SLATED TO GO AS POLISH AMBASSADOR TO ROME AND ASKED SPASOWSKI ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR HIS OWN FUTURE. HE CONFIRMED THE TREPCZYNSKI APPOINTMENT AND SAID THAT THERE WERE ONLY TWO COUNTRIES TO WHICH HE WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER GOING: THE US AND CANADA. FORTUNATELY, HE SAID, TRAMPCZYNSKI HAD AGREED TO STAY ANOTHER YEAR IN WASHINGTON; THAT ELIMINATED THE US. OTTAWA WAS ALSO

OCCUPIED. CONSEQUENTLY, HE SAID, HE HAD NO IDEA AT
THE MOMENT OF GOING ANYWHERE.
DAVIES

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